

BOOK REVIEWS

Skin Diseases in the African. By G. H. V. Clarke. 1959. Pp. viii + 169, 261 illus. Lewis, London (84s.).

This is an atlas, not a text-book, although there are short notes about the skin conditions illustrated. Apart from the frontispiece in colour, all other photographs are in black and white. These photographs have been taken largely of Nigerian patients by the author himself; in general they are of a high standard, although a few are unlikely to help those not already familiar with the skin condition. An interesting introduction on the physiology and histology of the African skin is followed by sections on skin diseases commonly seen in both Africans and Europeans; those commoner in Europeans but relatively rare in Africans; those uncommon in Europeans but frequently seen in Africans; those found almost exclusively in Africans; those seen uncommonly in both races and those rare in both races. Skin conditions hitherto unreported in Africans are listed, and there are chapters on fungus and venereal diseases. That on venereal diseases is short, superficial, disjointed and unlikely to help those unfamiliar with these infections. There are only seven photographs of yaws lesions and the reader is referred to the text-books of tropical medicine for information about this treponemal infection. Its importance in dermatological practice, however, is indicated by the incidence of skin diseases seen in the Lagos clinic, where scabies, tinea, and yaws (in that order) are the three commonest conditions, together accounting for just over half the total patients.

This book is intended primarily for the practitioner new to Africa and as such should prove a stimulating introduction. The bibliography of 48 pages will be helpful to those wishing to obtain a deeper knowledge of skin diseases in the African.

S.M.L.

World Directory of Venereal-Disease Treatment Centres at Ports. World Health Organization, 1958. 162 pages. Bilingual (English and French). H.M.S.O., P.O. Box 569, London, S.E.1. (8s. 6d.; \$1.75; *Swiss frs.* 5).

The present Directory, which is the fifth list and supersedes that published in 1951, contains information received by WHO up to May 30, 1958. It is divided into two main parts. The first contains the text of the Brussels Agreement, followed by lists of the countries which have ratified the Agreement or subsequently adhered to it, and of those which, although not parties to the Agreement, provide treatment facilities for seamen. This part also contains the reservations made by certain countries in respect of the Agreement.

The second part gives, in alphabetical order of countries and of ports within each country, the names and addresses of treatment centres open to seamen of all nationalities, together with the days and hours of attendance and the type of facilities provided.

Also included at the end of the volume is a revised version of the treatment booklet (personal booklet) which should be issued to the seaman on his first visit to a clinic for treatment, and should remain in his possession at all times. National health administrations and other interested bodies may obtain additional copies of the booklet at cost price from the WHO Distribution and Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland.

The information contained in this book has been supplied not only by the States Parties to the Agreement, but also by other Member States of WHO and by certain non-member States. WHO would appreciate receiving amendments or additions for incorporation in future revisions or supplements.

S.M.L.

FIRST CANADIAN SYMPOSIUM ON NON-GONOCOCCAL URETHRITIS AND HUMAN TRICHOMONIASIS

September, 1959

The First Canadian Symposium on Non-Gonococcal Urethritis and Human Trichomoniasis is to be held at Notre-Dame Hospital, Montreal on September 21–22, 1959, under the presidency of Dr. Paul Bourgeois. The 54 speakers will include leading authorities on venereology and related specialties

from twelve countries, with eight representatives from Great Britain.

Full particulars may be obtained from the secretary, Dr. Zoltan Gallai, M.D., 8580 Esplanade, Montreal 11, Canada.